

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO DA WASHDC

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: EURONAD STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS
DIRECTORS, 22 APRIL 1975

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E(IP)-MR. BASIL; OASD(I&L)IP-MR. CUFFE; OASD(PA&E)-
R. SCHNEIDER; AND OASD(ISA). CONO FOR OP-0982 AND OP-07. CSAF FOR
AFRDPSI AND AFRDQ. DA FOR DAMA-PPI.

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REF: USNATO 2319.

QUOTED IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY EURONAD CHAIRMAN, CAPT
ENG. D. H. EVERAARTS (NL), AT THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL

ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS ON 22 APRIL 1975. BEGIN TEXT.

STATEMENT BY EURONAD CHAIRMAN TO CNAD - 22 APRIL 1975

INTRODUCTION

1. MR CHAIRMAN, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF, FOLLOWING A CUSTOM THAT HAS SOMETIMES BEEN ADOPTED IN THE PAST, I GAVE YOU AND THE MEETING A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF EURONAD - THE EUROGROUP NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS - AND OF THE MAIN POINTS WHICH WE DISCUSSED AT OUR MEETING HERE IN BRUSSELS YESTERDAY. COPIES OF MY STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO REQUIRES IT, AND YOU MAY THINK IT USEFUL IF THE STATEMENT WERE TO BE REPRODUCED AS AN ANNEX TO THE DECISION SHEET OF THIS MEETING.

2. MR CHAIRMAN, I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU AND MY OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO WERE NOT WITH US YESTERDAY THAT WE HAD A MOST USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING, AT WHICH WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. AS IT WAS A MEETING OF EUROGROUP NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS, THE ASPECTS WE CONCENTRATED ON WERE, OF COURSE, OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE; BUT WE WERE NATURALLY VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE WIDER ALLIANCE FRAMEWORK AND THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK OF EURONAD IS CONCERTED WITH THE EFFORTS OF NATO - AND, IN PARTICULAR, CNAD AS A WHOLE - BECAUSE WE SEE EURONAD NEITHER AS COMPETING WITH NOR DUPLICATING THE WORK OF CNAD AND ITS SUBORDINATE BODIES.

PRINCIPLES OF EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION

3. THE MAIN WORK OF EURONAD DURING THE LAST YEAR OR SO HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO FINDING PRACTICAL MEANS OF GIVING EFFECT TO THE EUROGROUP PRINCIPLES OF EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION WHICH WERE SIGNED BY EUROGROUP MINISTERS IN 1972 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED BY NATO. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THESE PRINCIPLES PROVIDE THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK FOR THE EUROGROUP TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE EQUIPMENT FIELD, AND WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRINCIPLES ARE NOW WIDELY DISSEMINATED AND ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE PROCUREMENT AUTHORITIES OF EUROGROUP COUNTRIES.

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PRIORITY EQUIPMENT PROJECTS

4. WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THESE PRINCIPLES AS WIDELY AND EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE STUDIED A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT PROJECTS IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT POTENTIAL THEY PROVIDE FOR COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOUR. WE IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO WHICH WE FELT SPECIAL PRIORITY SHOULD BE ATTACHED, AND WE IN TURN DIVIDED THOSE PROJECTS INTO:

- A. THOSE WHICH ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY AND WHERE THE ONLY SCOPE FOR COOPERATION IS IN THE PRODUCTION PHASE; AND
- B. LONGER TERM REQUIREMENTS WHERE NO COUNTRY HAS YET FIRMLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO A SUCCESSOR.

5. AN IMPORTANT ITEM FOR EUROGROUP MINISTERS HAS BEEN, OF COURSE,

THE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE F104G AND OTHER AIRCRAFT AND
MINISTERS WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION FURTHER AT THE
EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME.

EQUIPMENT SCHEDULES

6. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVOTING A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AND
ATTENTION IN RECENT MONTHS TO TRYING TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE
REALLY COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES
AND PLANS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, FOR WITHOUT SUCH INFOR-
MATION IT SEEMS TO US IMPOSSIBLE TO FORM THE OVERALL VIEW
THAT IS NEEDED OF THE POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION IN THE
VARIOUS FIELDS. WE HAVE ACCORDINGLY DRAWN UP NEW SCHEDULES
ASKING FOR FULLER INFORMATION ON ALL LONG-TERM MAJOR
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT INTENTIONS; THESE SCHEDULE ARE NOW BEING
COMPLETED - AND, IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO, WE SHALL BE
PROCEEDING TO AN ANALYSIS OF THEM.

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EUROPEAN-US COOPERATION IN DEFENCE PROCRUEMENT

7. WE HOPE THAT THE INFORMATION IN THE SCHEDULES WILL ALSO BE OF CONSIDERABLE USE IN HELPING US TO GIVE CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO THE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ON DEFENCE PROCUREMENT MATTERS. MANY ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE STUDY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, AND I THINK THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE EUROGROUP HAS A CONSIDERABLE ROLE TO PLAY HERE; THE QUESTION IS TO BE CONSIDERED FURTHER BY EUROGROUP MINISTERS AT THEIR MEETING IN LONDON EARLY NEXT MONTH.

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8. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, WE HAVE CONDUCTED A STUDY INTO THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY (INCLUDING THE POSITION OF COUNTRIES WITH SMALLER AND/OR LESS WELL-DEVELOPED DEFENCE INDUSTRIES) AND THE LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WE SHOULD SEEK TO BUILD WITH OUR NORTH AMERICAN ALLIES. THIS WILL, BY ITS VERY NATURE, BE A LONG-TERM PROCESS; BUT WE FEEL THAT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT TOO SOON TO START, AND WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE US DEFENCE SECRETARY AT THE DECEMBER 1974 DPC OF THE "TWO-WAY STREET" APPROACH TO EUROPE IN THIS FIELD. THE NEED TO MAKE BETTER USE OF OUR DEFENCE RESOURCES IS UNRELENTING; AN URGENT RESPONSE IS NECESSARY.

OTHER BASIC ISSUES

9. WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN WORK ON A NUMBER OF OTHER BASIC ISSUES IN THE ARMS COOPERATION FIELD, SUCH AS THE STUDY OF THE BEST METHODS OF ARMAMENTS COOPERATION. WE ARE ALSO IN TOUCH WITH THE EUROLONGTERM SUB-GROUP ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING THE PRODUCTION OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS FORWARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGREED EUROGROUP STAFF REQUIREMENTS.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CNAD BUSINESS

10. I WOULD FINALLY MENTION THAT WE HAD A VALUABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ITEMS THAT WE ARE DUE TO DISCUSS HERE IN CNAD THESE NEXT FEW DAYS. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO GO INTO DETAILS NOW, BUT I KNOW THAT WE FOUND IT USEFUL TO HAVE THIS INITIAL DISCUSSION ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST; AND I HOPE THAT THE CNAD DEBATE WILL BENEFIT ACCORDINGLY.

CONCLUSION

11. MR CHAIRMAN, I HOPE THAT THIS STATEMENT HAS GIVEN YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CNAD A BRIEF IDEA OF THE MAIN AREAS OF WORK WITH WHICH EURONAD IS CONCERNED AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT, ALBEIT WITH THE REGRETTABLE ABSENCE OF ONE EUROPEAN MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE WITH A MAJOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY, WE CAN MAKE USEFUL PROGRESS IN FURTHERING COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION AMONG EUROGROUP MEMBERS. AND WE ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT, PARTICULARLY IF WE CAN DEVELOP THE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA TO WHICH I REFERRED EARLIER, OUR WORK WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THE WHOLE ALLIANCE - AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS.

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12. MR CHAIRMAN, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID, I SHOULD BE GLAD TO TRY TO ANSWER THEM.

END TEXT.

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